

REMARKS

Claims 2, 6, and 54 have been amended, Claim 59 has been added, and Claim 53 has been canceled.

Applicants noted some inadvertent errors of form in the claims, including inadvertent typographical errors. The foregoing amendments correct these inadvertent errors. More specifically, the word "wherein" appeared twice in Claim 2, and the foregoing amendments eliminate the extra occurrence. Claim 6 should depend from Claim 1 rather than Claim 2, and the foregoing amendments adjust the dependency. Claim 53 was an inadvertent duplicate of Claim 4, and the foregoing amendments delete Claim 53 to avoid confusion, and also adjust Claim 54 so that it depends from Claim 4 rather than from Claim 53. New Claim 59 has been added. This application originally had a total of 52 claims, 8 of which were independent. After entry of this Amendment, this application will have a total of 31 claims, 5 of which are independent. Thus, no additional filing fee is due in association with the submission of this Amendment.

Pursuant to a prior restriction requirement, Applicants previously elected the pending apparatus claims. In light of the foregoing amendments, the claims elected for examination (i.e. the pending apparatus claims) are now Claims 1-7, 9-10, 54, 57 and 59.

Conclusion

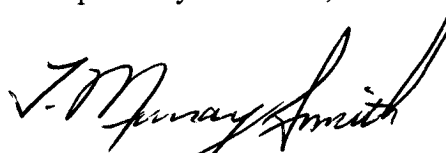
In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that examination of the present application may be advanced

Appl. No. 10/524,382
Preliminary Amendment

Attorney Docket No. 35365.4 / P60724US00
Customer No. 27683

in any way by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at 972-739-8647.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Murray Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Enclosures: None

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